CARTER'S JOBS PROGRAM A SHAM & ATTACK

The only campaign promise that Carter has kept since coming into office is when he told a Governor s' conference during the campaign, "Why should we pay a man $80 a week to do nothing on unemployment when we can pay him $100 a week to rebuild the railroads?" In other words, replace union labor at union pay with forced labor at slave pay.

This is the essence of Carter's jobs programs and income reforms. Behind Carter's smile and promises of jobs lays a deceptive and concentrated attack on the interests of working people.

The US capitalist economy is now two years out of the deepest recession since the 1930s and business investment is still 11% under its 1973 peak. Despite re-

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THE VETERAN

Vietnam Veterans Against the War 25¢

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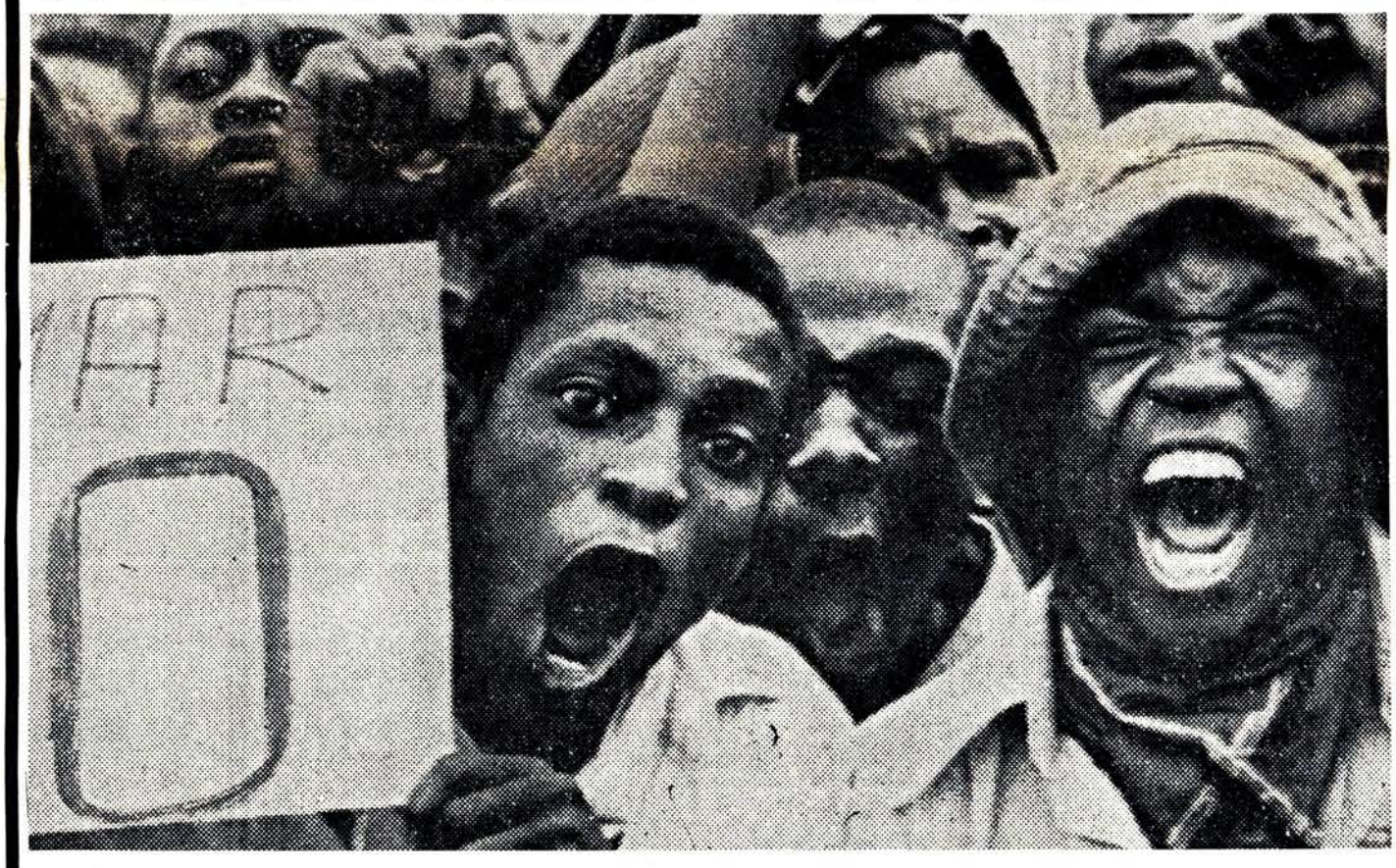
Fight Imperialism & National Oppression from USA to USA

US OUT OF SOUTHERN AFRICA



The storm clouds of liberation are gathering in southern Africa. The people of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia), Azania (South Africa), and Namibia (Southwest Africa) are rising up against the hated system of Apartheid, a racist government policy of strict segregation. Black people in these countries are standing up and fighting against the exploitation and oppression of the white minority governments. Last year the rebellion in Soweto, students and workers, fighting against the police demanding an end to passbooks, living on reservations and slavery-like conditions, kicked off demonstrations throughout the country shaking the foundations of the racist Vorster regime in South Africa. These demonstrations won the support of people throughout the world.

Over 80% of the population in South Africa is Black and yet they are restricted to 13% of the land. The government keeps areas of land for the Blacks. But because of the need to work many Blacks are forced to live in labor camps near the large cities. Every Black must carry a passbook saying where you can travel, work and live. Constant checks are made to see passbooks. In all, these restrictions on the lives of the Blacks tries to tie them to the economic shackles of the large corporations that exploit them.

Not surprising, the United States is the main backer of this colonial settler rule. About 375 US corporations have large holdings in South Africa, with investments topping $1.6 billion. Companies like General Motors, Ford, Chrysler, Texaco, Union Carbide and IBM got their hands in the economy, milking southern Africa for all its worth. The

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VETERANS' NOTES

Pre ,Interval and Advance Payments

GI BILL: CUTTING THRU THE RED TAPE

THE VETERAN has carried a number of articles concerning the newest version of the GI Bill passed back in October, and including such major items as the 8% raise in GI Bill benefits and the new method of educational benefits for people enlisting in the military after the 1st of January, 1977 (where GIs must pay in $50 or $75 per month which is then matched, 2 for 1, by the Defense Department for use when the GI gets out---in effect, no GI Bill at all.

The new GI Bill (officially known as Public Law 94-502) has all kinds of built-in time bombs, however, as the VA and the class of rich bosses who stand behind it, continue to use every device they can come up with to sneak in new attacks on the ability of veterans to collect the Bill and go to school. Back in November (when there was an election coming up), the only part of the Bill that was publicized was the raise in payments; not until April did vets begin to hear about the cutoff of prepayments (checks coming at the beginning of the month to pay the vets expenses through that month) and, as time goes on, more and more of these attacks are surfacing.

PREPAYMENTS

They are now a thing of the past. Blaming vets (who supposedly "cheated" the VA out of 3.5 million dollars--probably no more than the VA wasted by having to send out a special mailing to all vets because they forgot to include prepayment information with April checks--the law now reads that vets must prove they have been in school by actually going for the month before they will be paid. That's not much help to vets who need the money to go to school in the first place. In effect it means that the VA will get through the month of June without having to send out any GI Bill checks at all; where that money is going to go has never been discussed.

INTERVAL PAYMENTS

According to the new GI Bill, vets are supposed to be paid through semester breaks--if school gets out on December 15th and the next semester starts on January 10th, and if the individual vet is enrolled for both semesters, his or her check should continue coming. However, there are more and more little red-tape restrictions that are creeping out into the open and which are making it increasingly difficult for vets to get these break payments.

Some of these restrictions include not getting break payments.

* The interval between terms is more than 30 calendar (not school) days.

* The interval between terms is also the interval between school years; if the school declares that the school year for 1977 ends in December and the year 1978 begins in January, there is no payment for the interval. This is only true for schools that don't use terms, semesters, or quarters--and is one more example of the VA trying to push all schools where vets are enrolled into a single mold rather than giving the schools, and the vets there, the freedom to set up the school year or grading systems or attendance policies in a way that best suits their educational needs.

* An interval before a change in program--that is, you can go to the same school, but if you've decided you need to take a different set of courses, there's no break payment.

* In some places we've been told that vets will have to submit a form (VA form 4138--a small version of it is reproduced on this page) to insure getting interval payments. And the VA has been wholly unable to tell us when interval checks are likely to come out.

ADVANCED PAYMENTS

This new system will begin with the fall term in 1977; according to the Department of Veterans Benefits, it will not be "appropriate" for summer school, 1977, because the letters requesting advance pay won't be in. The Department fails to go on to point out that the reason for that is no vets knew about this program until too late to do anything about it.

Advance payments will work at the beginning of the term and will amount to the vet getting his first two month's GI Bill check at or slightly before the beginning of the semester. For instance, if the fall term begins on September 5, and the vet has gone through all the red tape, he should get his September and October checks on the 1st of September; he won't get another check until November 30, a long dry spell.

There are five requirements for advance pay:

1. The vet has to go to school at least half time.

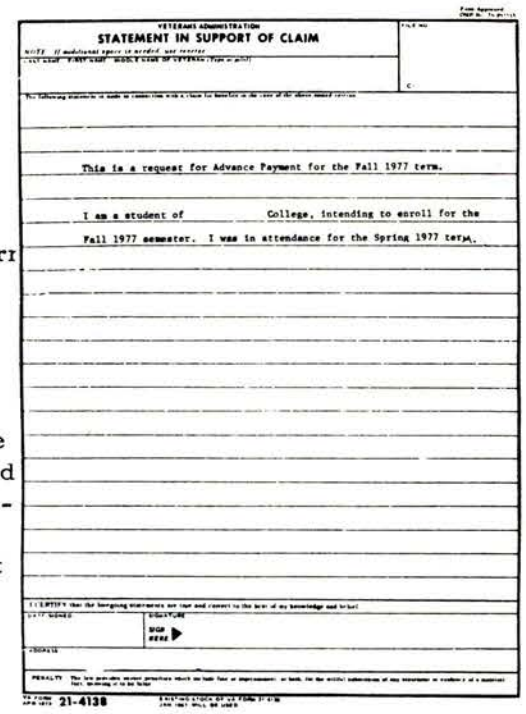
2. The school has to agree to process and get the advance payment--that means the checks will go to the school, not to the individual vet.

3. The individual vets must officially request the advance payment--the form for that is shown below.

4. Enrollment certification --forms sent in by vet reps on campus to say that the individual veterans are in fact enrolled in school, must be in to the VA at least 30 days ahead of time. As usual, the vet is dependent on the efficiency of the VA representatives on the campus, something that varies a great deal from school to school.

5. School must begin more than 30 days after the last term --if the fall semester is over on Dec. 15 and the spring semester begins on January 10, there will be no advance pay. The VA cannot or will not tell us if this applies to summer school, another case of the VA making up all kinds of rules and regulations which either they have not thought through or will not tell vets about until it's too late.

As if these "requirements" are not enough, there's another kicker hidden away in VA rules --that is that the VA must find "the educational institution can satisfactorily carry out the advance payment provisions of the law." In other words, the VA has built in this provision so that, by uncovering any kind of irregularity or anything else they want to, even if this comes



VETERANS ADMINISTRATION
STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF CLAIM

This is a request for Advance Payment for the Fall 1977 term.

I am a student of College, intending to enroll for the Fall 1977 semester. I was in attendance for the Spring 1977 term.

21-4138

from their own VA employees on campus, the VA will be able legally to say that vets at a particular school can't get advance payments.

These are the "rules." Built into them are all kinds of ways that the system can attack vets. Many vets will never hear about these rules--like the need for the vet to request advance payment--so of course won't follow them; a vet who is starting school for the first time in September will probably never find out what he has to do to get the advance pay he needs to get started in school. And, understanding that the class of people behind the VA want to cut back every penny they can, vets have to be constantly alert on how these rules can be used to try to push vets further down and throw us off the GI Bill.

EXTEND & EXPAND THE GI BILL

(If you want to question your vet rep about any of these regulations, they come from the Department of Veterans Benefits of the VA, Circular 20-77-24, which all vet reps have and which they should be willing to show concerned veterans.)

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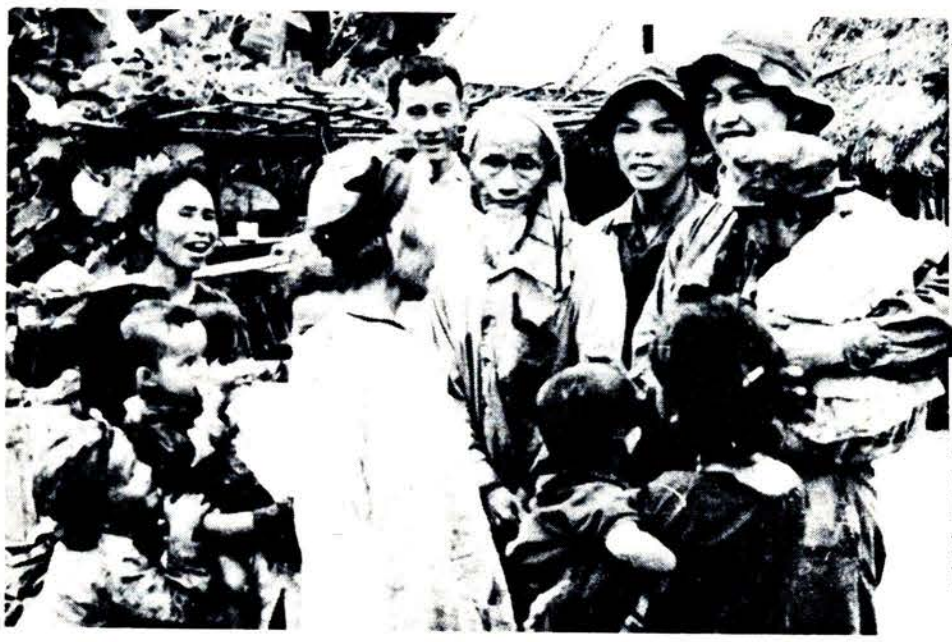
U.S. Must Pay
VIETNAM REPARATION



Villagers welcome soldiers after Vietnam was liberated in 1975.

Official negotiations between the US government and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam have opened up. After waging a terrorist war for ten years and trying to isolate Vietnam for the last two, Carter has finally stated that he will not veto their admission to the UN. At the same time the US government is trying to break a promise the Nixon administration was forced to make by the Vietnamese for reparations. Kissinger and Vance are now trying to say that there never really were any promises. Well you don't have to go back to the Indian land treaties to know the validity of US agreements. Broken promises and lies are part and parcel of this system. But there just isn't any way we are going to fall for them. As veterans of the Vietnam war, the ground pounders, tankers, artillerymen, RTOs, clerks, medics, etc, we can't forget, nor want to, what really happened in Vietnam.

Trying to rewrite history, the US government is now accusing the Vietnamese of atrocities committed by US forces. But we'll be glad to remind the rich of this country what we saw.

Operation Phoenix was a CIA assassination program that killed between 100,000 and 250,000 suspected enemy ranging from village chiefs to teachers. Chemical defoliants were used that were banned in the US. It is estimated that birth defects resulting from this use will be 6 times greater than suffered after Hiroshima. Forced relocation of farmers and peasants was the aim of the "new life hamlet" program. Carried out by the Saigon and American troops, Vietnamese were moved from ancestral homes to government controlled areas along the coast. This was all part of a ten year war waged by the rich here to subdue and exploit the peoples and resources of Vietnam. And the cannon fodder--55,000 dead American servicemen sacrificed on the altar of almighty profit for the likes of Bank of America, Texaco, Michelin Rubber and more.

Billions upon billions were spent to destroy Vietnam for the rich and now the rulers of this country had better damn well live up to their agreement and pay reparations out of their own pockets.

At the same time it is necessary for the government of Vietnam to be recognized by the UN and by the US as the legitimate representative of the Vietnamese people. There is no excuse for this not to happen. The rich rulers of the US can't even come up with a puppet on some offshore island pretending to be the real government of Vietnam. Unfortunately for the ruling class, ex-President Thieu skipped off to Europe with the gold from the Saigon treasury (unfortunately for the people, too, because they didn't get their hands of that traitor or the gold)

Carter likes to do a lot of talking about "binding up the wounds." But that is all it is--talk. Carter and the rest could care less about the lives of the Vietnamese, the GIs or the American people when compared to their profit margin. As for binding up the wounds and bringing us together, we won't ever forgive those bloodsuckers who sent us around the world.

Recognize Vietnam NOW!

Workers and peasants unite to rebuild their country after war years.

"Patriotic Days" Do Not Cut It!

Two of the most patriotic days in the government's arsonal is Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day.

Memorial Day was established after the Civil War. It has become the traditional day to honor all of America's war dead. Due to widespread sentiment against the Vietnam War, it was often officially forgotten, lest the public be reminded of casualty tolls.

Armed Forces Day was established in the early 50s, during the Cold War period, as a way for the political rulers to remind the public of the need for "national duty" and for a strong standing military apparatus. On this day, military bases have "open house" public displays and ceremonies. It too fell into disuse until recently.

In 1977, with the global contention sharpening between the US and the Soviet Union in southern Africa and in the Persian Gulf area, the theme of these two days will be a common one. In short, that more than ever the US needs a strong military, that's second to none. And since the volunteer armed forces are having difficulties meeting recruitment goals we should be indebted to the military personnel we have. That's what they'll be saying. We should hurry and fill their quotas.

We in VVAW came together after realizing that there is no honor--national or otherwise--in fighting a war to plunder the people of foreign countries. It was at the height of the Vietnam War that we first began to use Armed Forces Day to expose the role of the military as a tool of the US corporate bosses in reigning..politically and economically..over the world. We continue to do so today.

Both the US and the Soviet Union are preparing for another war. Its seeds can be seen in the urgent military appropriations, in the political confrontations over southern Africa, and in the uneasyness along the Eastern European borders. This war will be one of common plunder to see which superpower will be the world's number one imperialist power.

In opposition to this, VVAW will be holding actions around the country to raise the slogan "Fight the Rich; Don't Fight Their Wars."

Continued from page 1

SOUTHERN AFRICA

wages for Blacks are controlled by law with the average take home pay $30 even though the official government poverty level is $70. To get work, Blacks have to report to government run centers and sign year long contracts, live in government run barracks and not see their families for months at a time.

It's no wonder that the US has for so long backed the regimes of Rhodesia and South Africa. With such conditions the profits are bigger and better for the US ruling class. One managing Director of International Harvester-South Africa summed up the attitudes of his class when he stated, "I am sympathetic to what South Africa is trying to do. I don't want hundreds of Africans running around in front of my house." And what's he sympathetic to? Premier Vorster once stated, "We are for building a nation for whites only. Black people are entitled to political rights, but only over their own people--not my people."

But things are changing. The people of southern Africa aren't taking all this without fighting. And as a result of the armed struggle in Rhodesia and the rebellions in South Africa the regimes in these two countries are in bad shape. About 1,500 white people are leaving South Africa every month and the economy is crumbling.

So all of a sudden it looks as if the US ruling class is having a change of heart. But are they? No. Carter and his Black front man, Andrew Young are running around denouncing Apartheid and trying to appear as the friends of the Black South Africans. But they're just trying to buy time. Getting a chance to get a new regime in power to represent the interests of the US. Apartheid is a dying system and the US is being forced to re-examine its role.

In the meantime, the chief rival of the US ruling class for control of the world is the Soviet Union's capitalist ruling class, who, trying to pose as "friend" of the liberation struggle are actually backstabbers trying to elbow their way in and take the place of the US, the main plunderer of souther Africa. With empty promises and a wallet full of rubles, the USSR hopes to be able to make liberation forces economically and politically dependent on it and use them to ice the US as the Soviets did with the MPLA in Angola

So Young is hopping all over Africa going from conference to conference. Mondale is meeting with African heads of state, as is Secretary of State Vance. Podgorny of the Soviet Union and Castro of Cuba are hugging each other in Moscow after both visited a number of African countries. All this commotion about Africa is a serious thing. Each of the superpowers has a stake in setting up regimes in Africa for their own benefits and none of it is good for the African people. These attempts are part of an overall move toward war between the two superpowers, as was pretty evident when Cuban and South African troops stood in for the USSR and the US respectively, battling it out in Angola. The Soviets won in Angola and the US is desperately trying not to lose in southern Africa. This is why Carter and Company are peddling themselves as the friends of the Black African people.

Africans oppose Kissinger visit and US interference in southern Africa.

But not too many people are buying their wares. Discrimination of Blacks in this country is part and parcel of the system of imperialism that is the same enemy of the southern African people. Ever since Black people were dragged to this country in chains and sold as slaves they faced discrimination and oppression. But through the struggle of Black and white Americans, slavery was abolished and many of the most blatant forms of discrimination were broken down although there still is a struggle going on against national oppression. But as evidenced by the huge amount of American corporations in southern Africa the enemy is the same--the US ruling class. Coupled with the growing influence of the Soviet Union in Africa and the growing danger of war, it is important for us to recognize that the struggle of the South African people is also our struggle.

When we vets were in the military many of us were sent to fight in Vietnam. First hand, we learned about the nature of US presence there. We were sent to Indochina, not to defend "freedom" and "democracy" as we were told, but to defend the interests of the US ruling class; for example Standard Oil of California and Texaco with oil interests in both Vietnam and South Africa. In Vietnam, Caltex gas stations were everywhere. In South Africa Caltex refines 50% of South Africa's oil imports.

And it's not just in Vietnam that we saw the death and destruction caused by the US. Wherever we were sent we were occupation forces protecting the ruling class: in Europe, Korea, Japan, the Philippines, South America, and elsewhere. It all boils down to the same thing. Everywhere we were sent we were treated with animosity by the people--whether it was in the form of "Yankee Go Home" or in less obvious ways. And rightly so. The people wanted the US out of their countries.

As this article is being written VVAW chapters across the country are planning to join in a major demonstration on African Liberation Day, May 28 in Washington DC and in Los Angeles. As part of building for these demonstrations, vets from around the country are donating fatigues to the liberation forces in Rhodesia, led by the Zimbabwe African National Union.

We were used by the rich once but now we vow to Fight The Rich-Not Their Wars and stand shoulder to shoulder with the Black African people who are fighting for the liberation of their countries.

U.S. OUT OF AFRICA!

SUPERPOWERS HANDS OFF!

VICTORY TO THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN PEOPLE!

Solidarity with Africa

As part of a major campaign to celebrate our solidarity with the people of Southern Africa, the Vietnam Veterans Against the War is collecting military fatigues to send to the Zimbabwe People's Army. The following letter is being sent to the ZIPA along with the fatigues.

VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR

MARCH ON THE WHITE HOUSE MAY 28th AFRICAN LIB. DAY

Brothers and Sisters in Struggle:

Wearing these military uniforms or ones like them, we veterans of the United States military learned first hand about "freedom" and "aggression." Instead of fighting for freedom and stopping aggression, we found ourselves fighting for the profits of the ruling rich and trying to crush the peoples' struggles.

From Indochina and Korea to Panama and Africa we learned first hand about the ruthless, blood-thirsty nature of this profit system. During the war in Indochina thousands of us veterans actively joined in the anti-war demonstrations in support of the Vietnamese, Cambodians and Laotians. We have come to actively oppose the system that exploits and oppresses the people of the world, vowing to "Fight the Rich, Not Their Wars." We are not pacifists for we know of the necessity to fight, and fight hard for freedom. And we fight our common enemy--the United States ruling class.

Please accept these fatigues as concrete aid for your struggle. These fatigues are being collected in cities across the United States as part of a major campaign being conducted here in support of the struggle of the southern African people. On African Liberation Day, May 28th, demonstrations will be held in Washington DC and Los Angeles, California. Veterans will march in them proudly.

We express our deep solidarity with your fight and your people. Our hopes for your speedy victory.

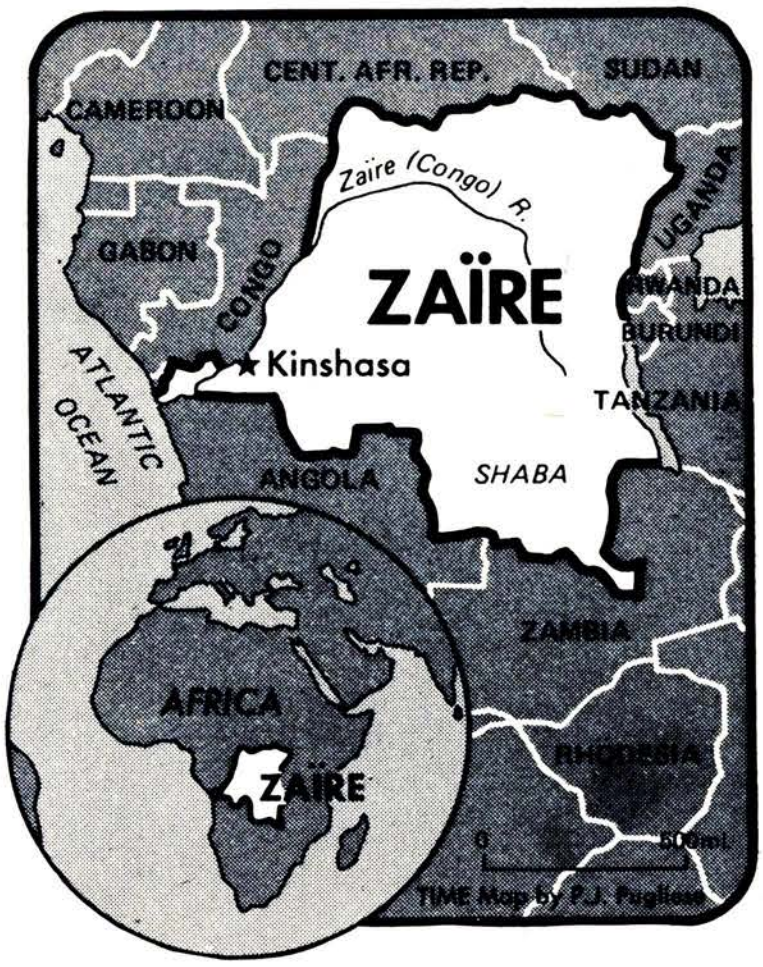
U. S. OUT OF SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA: SUPERPOWERS HANDS OFF!

VICTORY TO THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN PEOPLE!

DOWN WITH WHITE MINORITY RULE!

Black and white Alabama coal miners strike over importation of South African coal.

US-USSR RIVALRY IN ZAIRE



Throughout the world the United States and Soviet Union are coming up against each other in a drive for economic and military superiority. This March, as part of the worldwide contention, the pro-U. S. country of Zaire in central Africa was invaded by 5,000 pro-Soviet troops based in Angola. Off the top, the situation appears to be confusing. Each side claims to be acting in the interest of the people.

This situation must be analyzed in terms of two major trends in the world today. The first is that all around the world nations want liberation (as in South Africa), countries want independence (as in Vietnam and Cambodia) and, in order to achieve these ends, people are rising up in armed revolution. The second trend is the growing contention of the two superpowers in their drive for world domination. This contention is what this war in Zaire is about. The people of Zaire do want liberation, but in this case, talk of the rebels being liberation forces is just a shuck designed to bring Soviet domination to Zaire.

Zaire used to be a colony of Belgium, known then as the Belgian Congo. It is a country that is wealthy in natural resources--mainly copper, diamond and cobalt mines. The Belgians exploited the country. Keeping the African people oppressed and using their labor, the Belgian capitalists backed by their army took much wealth from the Congo. Then, in 1960, the resistance to this oppression erupted into a war of national liberation led by Patrice Lumumba.

The Belgians backed an army from Katanga province made up largely of Katangan police forces. Capitalists in the United States saw this as an opporutnity to get at some of the wealth of Africa. They went in with a two-pronged strategy. The Belgian-Katangan forces were defeated by a United Nations peacekeeping forces. Patrice Lumumba was assassinated by the CIA. In his place, pro-US puppet Moise Tshombe became president. Today his political successor, Mobuto Sese-Seko heads Zaire.

In the current situation the allies of the reactionary Mobutu government are:

The United States with over $1 billion invested in Zaire and its largest CIA African base in Kinshasa, Zaire. With the outbreak of the fighting the U. S. sent nonmilitary aid to supplement the annual military aid given to Zaire. The fear of the American people's reaction to "another Vietnam" has prevented the Carter administration from increasing military aid (at least openly). However, the CIA is recruiting Vietnam combat vets to go to Zaire as mercenaries.

Belgium and France with investments in Zaire have sent arms, ammunition and advisors to Mobutu.

Morocco, a country run by a feudal king and also in the US camp has sent 1500 crack troops to Mobutu. This is partly because Zaire's army is in disarray, much like the South Vietnamese Army during the final days of the war.

The forces on the other side are:

The Katangan invaders. These are basically the same mercenaries that fought with the Belgians against liberation in the early 60's. After being kicked out of Zaire they went to Angola where they signed on with the Portuguese colonialists and fought against liberation forces there. After the Portuguese were kicked out they were signed up by the pro-Soviet forces in the Angolan civil war.

The Soviet Union was formerly a socialist country. Since Khruschev they have become capitalists like their counterparts in the U. S. and are out to exploit third world countries. Using the once proud reputation as socialist friend to third world nations as a cover, the Soviets try to gain footholds in countries where people wish to be rid of their repressive governments (such as Mobutu in Zaire). The Soviets are supplying the Katangans with arms, ammunition and possibly advisors.

Cuba is part of the Soviet camp. It is totally dependent economically on the Soviet Union, and like the Soviet Union uses the cover of "socialist" to act as shock troops for the Soviet Union in Africa. Its troops are advisors and organizers of the Katangan forces. Cuba's role in Africa is becoming increasingly clear. For instance, Cuba recently sent 300 military advisors to another so-called "socialist" government in Ethiopia, a government which has used gestapo-like house-to-house searches, mass murders of liberation fighters and open warfare against the Eritrean people within its borders.

Angola has a pro-Soviet government and is allowing the Katangan invaders to use Angola

Continued on page 15

1951, South Africa

Vets Opposed Gov. On Civil Rights

The present government of South Africa came to power after the Second World War and consisted of many Nazi sympathizers. As a matter of fact the present Premier of South Africa, Vorster was jailed for his Hitlerite sympathies. In 1951 as part of the government's program to subdue and subjugate the non-white peoples, they denied the right to vote for "collardes" (half white and mixed blood people.)

This outrage brought on a storm of resistance. One of the leaders of the struggle against the government was a group of WWII veterans known as War Veterans Torch Commando, (taking their name from one of their early torchlight parades). Condemning the attack on democratic rights that the Nationalist Party was pursueing they issued a statement saying that it "denied the free spirit of man and led to bigotry and ignorance." They led demonstrations in over 160 cities, besides conducting letter writing campaigns, lobbying, etc. In Capetown they marched in the thousands; were attacked by the police and suffered 160 casualties and had numerous members arrested.

While they led much struggle they floundered on building multi-national unity in the organization itself. The leadership equivocated on the issue of allowing non-whites to join, despite the fact that that was directly where the struggle was leading. This contradictions of integrating the veterans organization and directing the organization's activities into "constitutional" forms led to the decline and eventual breakup of the group by 1953; a sad development for the struggle.

The struggle against a common enemy and building unity does exist even today in South Africa. A statement made by a white English-speaking Lance Corporal in the South African army brings this out clearly. He said they (the present ruling class) "never gave a damn about us, and now they want us to go out and die for their system."

SINGLE-TYPE DISCHARGE FOR ALL VETS

CARTER'S DISCHARGE NOT ENOUGH

Secretary of Defense Harold Brown announced details of President Carter's Special Discharge Review Program and basically the program is discriminatory and inadequate. While many vets will automatically get their discharge upgraded, many more will be subjected to the "pick and choose" review that enables the military to decide who should get a good deal and who should get a raw deal.

Carter's program came out of the need to address the question of what to do with vets with less than honorable discharges. It comes from the fact that veterans and others have been demanding a single-type discharge for all veterans as part of the overall struggle for universal and unconditional amnesty for resisters of the Vietnam War. Thousands of veterans who received less than honorable discharges got them as a direct result of their opposition to the war and to the racism and repression of the military. The discharge review program, like Carter's earlier partial pardon, is a real concession to the strength of the struggle for amnesty.

Those who served in Southeast Asia successfully (whatever that means), or were wounded in military action, received a US military decoration other than a service medal, entered Ford's clemency program, received an honorable discharge in a prior service tour, had 24 months of satisfactory military service prior to discharge can get an automatic upgrading from undesireable to either general or honorable if you apply by October 5, 1977. Those who fit this category should get their discharges upgraded.

But wait a minute! That's not just anybody. For instance, if you were drafted and spent a tour of duty in Germany and got an undesireable discharge for fighting against racism that was rampant there, you are not entitled to automatic upgrading. And that's no small matter. There are other cases like this adding up to a program that's confusing and sometimes misleading.

Any vet who received a bad conduct or dishonorable discharge is not eligible for the program. Any GI who deserted from Vietnam is not eligible. Deserters who are eligible have to turn themselves in, be discharged with "bad paper" and then apply for upgrading. If you were discharged before August 4, 1965 or after March 28, 1973 you are not eligible for the program. If you are not eligible you can go through the existing procedures which are the regular military review boards. If you are eligible you can get supporting documents which include statements from law enforcement officials, doctors, employment records, etc.

On and on it goes. If you aren't eligible for the automatic upgrading you have to go through all the red tape that is involved, and if you have an Undesireable Discharge you are not assured that you will get an honorable. You may get a general, entitling you to vets benefits, but which also means that you will still face problems getting a job when an employer sees that it isn't an honorable.

As was the Ford clemency or the existing review procedure the burden of guilt is on the vet with the bad discharge. And most Undesireable Discharges were given administratively, by officers who gave GIs a choice of either taking a UD or being court-martialed, with no legal advice or anything that could have defended them. In many cases these UDs were undeserved. Even though according to the instructions laid out by Brown, all vets will "be considered by the Board in the spirit of compassion and forgiveness in which the President has sought to bind up the divisions of the Viet Nam war," it comes down that the vets were wrong.

There's an expression that the ruling class turns the truth on its head. "Compassion and forgiveness" from Carter who wants to "bind up the divisions of the Viet Nam war" is outrageous. Carter represents the same class of people who carried out the most devastating planned destruction of one country over another. And he and his class want to show "compassion and forgiveness" to the vets who said No to the Indochina war or to the racism and repression of the military."

So why has Carter come up with this discharge upgrading program? The answer lies in the statement "bind up the divisions of the Viet Nam war." They would like to close the book on the war in Indochina and unite people around their rule as they move toward war with the Soviet Union, saying that we all have something in common regardless of whether we're rich or poor, owner or worker. But the Indochina war can't be forgotten because it exposed the nature of the system we live under and the exploitation and oppression that goes with it. And that system is also responsible for the less than honorable discharges vets have after being used in their military.

While vets should take advantage of the discharge upgrading program, if they can, it should be done with a clear understanding that the only resolution to bad discharges is a single-type discharge and the only way we are going to get it is to continue to fight for it.

* * *

If you want to find out if you are eligible call the SDRP at toll free (800)325-4040; in Missouri, Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico call toll free (314) 428-3500 and to contact VVAW call (not toll free) (312) 651-1581 or the local chapter phone number listed in the paper.

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CHIP SAYS, 'NO' TO DADDY

Chip Carter spends a day "suffering" with the people of Buffalo during the severe winter snow snow storms in spite of his bad discharge.

Who will ever forget Margeret Truman playing the piano, or John Eisenhower spawning David, or John-John hopping around in the grass and his sister in her later years wearing see-through blouses in London? How can we forget Linda Bird dancing til dawn with actor George Hamilton while Lyndon was dropping bombs all over Southeast Asia or her sister Luci Baines hot-rodding around Washington in her parent's modest birthday present--a brand new Corvette sports car?

And then there was Tricia Nixon, the perennial Alice-in-Wonderland and her brave sister Julie on her "my father is not a crook" roadshow with her (here's David again) husband. We will always remember Susan Ford's high school graduation with her daddy as guest speaker and her brother Jack fondling Bianca Jagger while her brother Steve ran around the mountains in Utah in his underpants.

Now there's a new first family in the White House and the competition looked pretty weak, what with such a born again Shirley Temple running around --Amy Carter, darling of the diaper set. Amy Carter goes to school. Amy Carter climbs a treehouse. Amy Carter wets her drawers.

But little noticed was her older brother making the sacrifice of the century. Chip Carter stepped into the vacuum left by his illustrious predecessors and announced that he wasn't going to get his General Discharge from the military upgraded under his dad's new discharge upgrading program. But wait... let's give a little background.

In 1970 Chip was in the Navy attending their Nuclear Power School in Idaho Falls, Idaho. He and 53 classmates got caught smoking marijuana. So the chips were down and our hero got a general discharge. How he lived all that time with such a burden on his shoulders boggles the mind.

But in the spirit of self-sacrifice he announced that if he got his discharge upgraded people would think that he was taking advantage of his position as son of the President. So it looks like Chip will keep his general discharge.

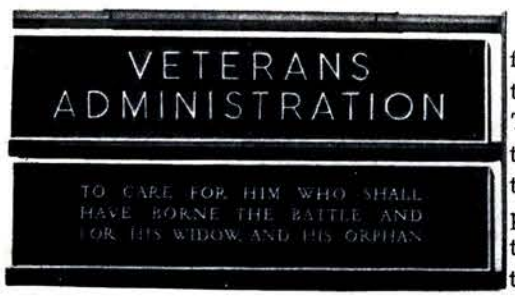
Most people with general discharges have a hard time finding a job. Most employers shy away from any vet with other than an honorable discharge. And knowing this Chip is taking the risks anyway. The martyr.

So what will he do? But wait a minute...he's not just any vet. Chip is the son of the President and following through with his spirit of self-sacrifice he's only been traveling around the world standing in for his dad. And what a whirlwind life it must be. The guy must get real tired. So it's back to rest in the family home--the White House with a staff of servants that would make Rockefeller run for President. And if he gets tired of this he can fly down on Air Force One and drink a few beers with Uncle Billy... maybe blow a little weed too, in between eating peanuts and pumping gas.

Now if Chip plays his cards right he can get any number of jobs after he's out of the White House. He can cut an album with Margeret or he can patent and sell Amy Carter Treehouses. If he gets desperate he can always iron Tricia's pinafores or start a farm in Gettysburg with David. He'd probably enjoy being a "roadie" with the Rolling Stones, if he can convince Jack to introduce him to Bianca or he can ghost write John Eisenhower's next book, "The General I Almost Was." But whatever Chip decides to do we hope he doesn't let his class stamp interfere with making the right decision.

A True Story

A TALE OF 2 VET REPS



Faced by late checks, cuts in prepayments, hassles with paperwork, veterans are often frustrated in finding where to strike back against the system. Vet reps on campus, school directors of Veteran's affairs, VA clerks have all been confronted by angry vets concerning the problems that vets run into. As the following two episodes demonstrate, although these individuals are not at the root of the attacks coming down on vets, they are able to work in extremely different ways either to help the vet as much as possible, or to throw roadblocks in the way. The people in both episodes below work in the same school.

A simple question about the new system of payments of the GI Bill took a vet into the office of the vet rep, the VA's official representative on campus.

"Didn't you get the form from the VA?" she said. "All the information is right there." The vet pointed out that sometimes VA bureaucratese isn't all that easy to understand. "My experience is that vets read only the things they want to read," the vet rep declared.

Curtly, she explained that there would be no June check; "But you've had enough notice to start saving up," she added. The vet said something about it being difficult to save up much on $292 a month and that landlords don't want to wait a month for the rent. "If you wanted to get a job you could get it," she said. "Vets think that they're owed a living--I think about that every time I see my taxes taken out of my paycheck." She did not mention that her paycheck comes out of the same taxes.

The vet asked if she would come to a meeting of the school vets club to explain the necessary procedures. "No," she answered, "Vets make me mad." Before the vet could ask the obvious question about why she was working as a vet rep, she continued, "You know Vietnam vets get a whole lot more than vets did after World War II, you're actually lucky."

The vet pointed out that her facts were screwed up--although today's vets get more money, the buying power is 300% lower than what vets received after WWII. "Maybe you're right," she responded, "but then the vets then deserved the money--they won their war."

When the vet left the so-called vet rep he went to the school's Director of Veterans' Affairs. The director says that his job is to do whatever he can to help vets--and he means what he says.

He already had a copy of a letter he had sent to the VA saying that the school would guarantee advanced payment (one of the conditions for vets to get advance payment in the Fall term under new VA rules.)

I know some of the problems vets face," he said. "When I got out I took the test to become a fireman--did well on it too. After a year or so when my name didn't move up the list, I went to one of the local politicians--who said that if I'd give him $500 he'd see that my name moved up. Hell, if I'd had $500 I probably wouldn't have been looking for the job, but I knew I'd put in my years in the military and it just wasn't right."

Around school were posted letters from him to all vets explaining the new regulations and telling vets exactly what they had to do to insure payment through the school break and advance payment for the Fall term. Forms, already filled out and needing only to be signed, were waiting for vets who pre-registered for the Fall semester.

"There are a lot of things I want to do for vets and can't do in the middle of this system" the vets director said. "I've got a family I have to feed and need the job. Either the school administration or the VA is always saying no, but I'm doing what I can and trying to get you guys (vets) what you need. Sometimes I feel like going down and setting fire to the whole VA regional office--and if it finally comes down to it, I guess I can find another job."

Led by 100 veterans marching in formation 350 people demonstrate in Cleveland at the start of Ashby's trial. We knew the courts could not mete out justice only mass action could free Ashby Leach.

Ashby leaving the courthouse with his wife after being found innocent of 13 counts of kidnapping. Neither justice in the court nor legal technicalities were responsible. It was the struggle people waged around this case which produced the victory.

Not bound by the rules of the rich or their courts, members of VVAW in Cleveland stopped and held a 100 car coal train for 2 hours.

Ashby Leach Campaign

LESSONS LEA ARMED FOR

In January 1977, VVAW made the campaign to Free Ashby Leach its major area of work. The case was seen as a dramatic example of vets being used once by the rich as their cannon fodder, and upon returning to the states, being tossed aside. More than just another hard luck case, it also pointed to the need to break through the rules set down by the ownership class in this country to keep us in place. VVAW was determined to bring the case to the American people, not in isolation, but tied in to the struggle of vets as a whole. We were determined to wage struggle to Free Ashby Leach, not because he was some hero with all the answers, but because we would not allow the state to railroad him without a fight, and to force the giant corporation, the Chessie System, to Honor the GI Bill for its Veterans.

The campaign was highly successful. Vets from across the country joined in the campaign; a chapter of VVAW was established in Cleveland, the site of Leach's trial. Veterans and non-vets began to learn and see more clearly the nature of the system we live under, and we won a tremendous victory when the jury found Ashby not guilty of 13 counts of kidnapping and the judge released Ashby pending appeal.

At the same time there has been a loss; not seeing that it's the people in struggle who make changes, Ashby decided to go on a hunger strike until Chessie honored the GI Bill. As time went on, he began to see less and less clearly from the lack of food which affected his reason. He demanded that his wife have their baby at the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, and when that failed and the baby was born in a hospital, he attempted suicide. The press picked this up and used it to say that Ashby was crazy all along. But Ashby was not crazy when he took the Terminal Tower last August, and VVAW was correct in taking up and waging the campaign. This latest episode does not change the facts, the successes, or our determination to wage more battles in the future.

WE DON'T HAVE TO TAKE IT

Ashby was a Navy medic who served with the Marines in Vietnam and was wounded. Upon release from the service he got a job with the Chessie Railroad System as an apprentice mechanic. He, like many other Vietnam vets, requested the GI Bill, and like other vets was turned down. He began to write letters; with his wife he picketted a meeting attended by the president of the railroad. After 5 years of going through the system, he not only did not get the GI Bill but was fired, blacklisted by the railroad, and slandered as a malcontent who was dirtying the railroad's "image."

Frustrated, he learned like millions of us that "redress of grievances" through the system works only for the rich. But he did not give up; instead, he went to Cleveland to the international headquarters of the Chessie System. He went to the 36th floor of the Terminal Tower, to the offices of Chessie's president, and with a shotgun demanded that Chessie honor the GI Bill for Vietnam veterans. The president was gone, but some of his flunkies were in--a vice presidnet, his male personal secretary, and executive secretary to the president, among others. Ashby detained them for 9 hours until Chessie agreed to Honor the GI Bill. Ashby was then arrested, charged with extortion (demanding the Bill), felonious assault (bumping a man on the head, not even drawing blood), possession of a dangerous weapon (an unloaded sawed-off shotgun stuffed with letters) and 13 counts of kidnapping.

STOOD FOR ALL VETS

VVAW saw that the man's demands were just. More im-

gn

EARNED
R THE FUTURE

portant, in Ashby's resistence there was a spark that could be ignited. Vets in particular and the American people as a whole could gain inspiration from his act of resistence and, through the campaign could get a better insight into the true nature of a system that puts profits above people. The case also brought up the question of war and how vets are sent around the world to defend markets, resources and profits for the rich, only to return to unemployment, broken promises about benefits, and butchershop VA hospitals. Ashby was not a lone hero and we did not take his case out that way. To the contrary, we pointed out how he represented millions not only in his problems but in his refusal to succumb. The slogan "Fight, Don't Starve" became a reality as did "Use Once and Throw Away."

THE NATIONAL CAMPAIGN

As part of getting out the word about the case and to build for a national demonstration in Cleveland, VVAW sponsored a national speaking tour for Ashby. He spoke on radio show, on TV, held interviews with newspapers. Demonstrations were held in a number of cities as part of the tour. The Chessie System became so unnerved that they sent spies out to follow the tour, put shills in the audiences to spread lies, and even pretended to be newsmen in order to get information on VVAW members building the campaign. As one of their internal memo's said, the case could be "the kiss of death for Chessie."

Large gatherings of veterans, workers and students were held. Ashby spoke about his case; representatives of VVAW spoke to the broader issues of Vietnam, war, and the situation of veterans overall. Some of these meetings were extremely successful as the one in Boston can attest. About 200 people attended a fund-raising dinner which was built broadly. Vets from the audience testified to their own anger. An unemployed World War II vet spoke of the problems he had had with disability payments, about how his wife was in the hospital, but that they had decided it was important for him to show solidarity with Ashby and come to the dinner, and how he was going to Cleveland to let the system know where he stood. This was repeated in city after city with Ashby's case unleashing anger against the way we have to live.

While these events were highly successful, there were still errors made. The campaign could have been taken out further and more broadly. The tour became a kind of end in itself rather than part of an overall campaign. Activities to continue the campaign and build for a national demonstration in Cleveland were not planned. Many chapter members thought that people would come to the demonstration on their own--that it was not necessary to continue to build the struggle and make the campaign come alive. This meant that the anger and interest of some new vets began to subside.

In Cleveland a Defense Committee (the ALDC) took shape, made up mostly of veterans. The Committee took the case up with a vengeance, leafletting, hanging banners over freeways during rush hours to proclaim Free Ashby Leach, spraypainting, postering, and creating an atmosphere where the case could not be ignored. Deep-seated support for the case was discovered, but at the same time people kept question "breaking the law," and "taking hostages." This was met head on. We responded that the question was not what Ashby had done but what the system had done to him and millions of veterans. We brought out that, in America, "justice" was spelled "just-us rich," and that for us there was no alternative but to fight. Fight we must or we will end up like the old man in Mansfield Ohio who froze because his gas was turned off for a late bill of $18. At the same time, the ALDC decided that bold action was necessary. Mobilizing our forces we swooped down on a Chessie train track and held it for two hours in an attempt to stop a train. Although none came by, we let the system know we would not be bound by their rules.

Committee members began to gain confidence as we waged the battle fighting toe to toe at every turn, whether it was picketing a newspaper for a slanderous article about the case or leafletting where it was "not allowed." People began to see themselves as organizers and fighters, and to see the rich and their state apparatus in relation to themselves.

The demonstration at the beginning of the trial was a success. Spirited and militant, it pointed at the enemy--not one corporation, one judge, or one policy, but at the whole damn system. Exposing the fact that the courts serve the rich, the demonstration pointed out it was necessary to fight, not as an individual but by organizing, not to beg but to demand. Coming off the demonstration the vets on the Committee formed a VVAW chapter in Cleveland.

THE TRIAL

Going into the trial we knew that the system served only the rich; seeing it for oneself brings the lesson home vividly. The jury was chosen in two days. Police lied, the judge denied admissibility of evidence (for instance, Ashby's union representative who came to testify about Chessie's treatment of vets). The State's sum-up posed the alternative, Anarchy or convict Leach. As the DA laid it out, the case had nothing to do with Chessie's treatment of vets, only with the law; without law we have nothing (as if we have anything with their law). Vets came away from the trial day after day saying, "I didn't believe you when you said that the court served only the rich, but man, today was something I won't forget."

We didn't allow ourselves to be merely court watchers, helpless bystanders to the wheels of injustice. We took to the streets even more. Printing a weekly trial bulletin we got out the truth about the case promptly to the people, as well as calling people to action. Seeing the case being shuffled under the rug by the media, we took the train tracks again this time stopping a train.

Wainting until the train was in sight members of Cleveland VVAW jumped aboard a 100-car coal train. Covering it with banners, stickers and vets, VVAW held the train for two hours, making it clear there would be "No Business As Usual; You Interfere With Our Lives and We'll Interfere With Your Train." VVAW then left with no arrests but with the promise to continue to fight. Chessie got the message. The jury got the message despite the efforts of the judge, DA, police and Chessie. They found Ashby not guilty of 13 counts of kidnapping, not on a technicality since Ashby admitted doing it, but because they said it was not a crime to fight back. One juror said, "I'd like to see some Chessie official on trial."

It wasn't all victory since Ashby was found guilty on 3 counts--but guilty of what? Extortion--trying to get the GI Bill! Assault--a bump on the head! Possession of a dangerous weapon--an unloaded shotgun!

We saw that we could have an effect and that we could win victories. And a victory party was held not only in Cleveland but in other cities as well.

A LOSS

At the end of the trial Ashby vowed not to eat until Chessie honored the GI Bill. Members of the Defense Com-

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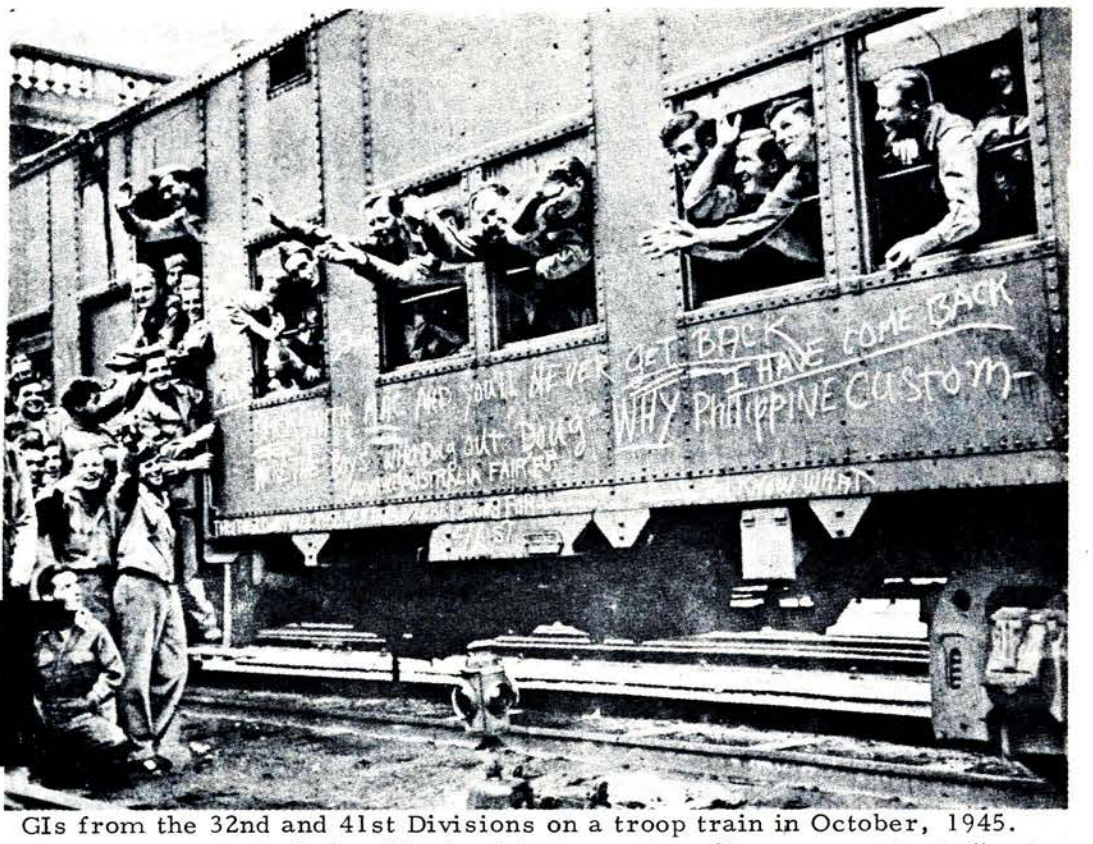
1945, Vets' History

THE BACK HOME MOVEMENT



GIs from the 32nd and 41st Divisions on a troop train in October, 1945. Slogans on train include, "Stick with Mac and you'll never get back," and "We're the boys who dug out Doug", both referring to Douglas MacArthur.

World War II, a just war, directly or indirectly affected every nation; left major portions of the world, like Europe in ruins and the people of the world in turmoil. The US late entry into the war came after much of the devastation was complete and their allies, though not defeated, had suffered immense hardship and casualties.

Before entering the war, American arms and munitions manufacturers stacked up incredible profits as well as every other sector of the US economy, benefiting from the temporary boom which accompanied the war.

The deserts of Africa, the bitter Italian campaigns, central and Eastern Europe, Asia, the steaming jungles of India and Burma, island hopping in the Pacific--these and other places witnessed the pain and suffering of the American GI. As the war came to an end, these same survivors, sick of war, looked forward to returning home. But the rich had other plans. They made a killing on the war but more importantly had scooped up much of the markets and territory of their allies as well as those of Japan and Germany.

During that period US Senator Tunnel stated the ruling class' position quite well when he stated, "It would be an anomalous position for the US to occupy, after putting up the men, the money and enduring all the sacrifices these mean, to have our country precluded from the markets we have liberated." February 15, 1945.

Fortunately for Senator Tunnel and the ruling class he spoke for, "liberation" held a completely different meaning for millions of people in China, Vietnam, Korea and the world over. These people looked ahead to total independence after many years of subjugation by one major power after another. This ran in direct conflict with the plans of the US and other imperialist powers after the war.

The obvious answer for the US rich in this situation was to pack up their standing armies around the world and shift them to where they could best be used--again. They assumed that the WWII veterans would stand silently by and go where they were told, like "good" soldiers. The ruling class and military had made a mistake they would soon regret.

While GIs waited to go home the troop ships were carrying arms to the Dutch in Indonesia, to the French in Indochina and to Chiang KaiShek in China. On several occasions, homebound GIs were bumped off ships to make way for Asian arms shipments. The grumbling turned to real anger when GIs in Europe were notified that they were going to be transferred to Asian "occupation" duty. The sentiments of the GIs were summed up best by a pamphlet written by GIs in Manila in 1945-6. It read "According to war department spokesman, 'demobilization' is proceeding with alarming rapidity. Alarming for whose point of view? Alarming to the generals and colonels who want to go on playing war and not go back to being Captains and Majors? Alarming to businessmen who stand to make money having their investments rebuilt at Army expense? Alarming to the State Department, which wants an army to back its imperialism in the Far East?"

The GIs who were put on trains protested by hanging signs from the trains' windows reading "Why do we go from here?" and "Shanghaied for the Pacific." Huge letter writing campaigns by the GIs and their families to Congress, full page newspaper ads and endless appeals were of no avail. Gradually the GIs transferred their anger into action. The GIs at Camp Shelby, Miss. booed down a general trying to explain the delay in demobilization. These GIs were from the all-Black 95th Division, and had suffered enough at the hands of racist officers to be highly supportive of the GIs overseas, suffering a similar repression.

In December, the GIs in Asia exploded. On Christmas Day, 1945, 4,000 men held a march carrying banners that read, "WE WANT SHIPS!" Referring to a strike then going on in the States of some 225,000 General Motors workers, their commanding officer said, "You men forget that you're not working for General Motors. You're still in the Army," but the soldier could see the growing power of mass action. On January 6, again in Manila, several thousand GIs held two marches that were broken up by the MPs. On January 7, 2,500 men marched to the commanding general's headquarters once again demanding ships home. Their leaflet noted that "The State Department wants the Army to back up imperialism." That night as many as 20,000 GIs attended a mass meeting demanding the right to go home and supported the rights of the Asian people to self-determination, without coercion from the Army.

These actions sparked the flames of GI resistance around the world; January 7, 2000 GIs at Camp Boston, France; Jan 8 protests from 6,000 in Saipan; 3,500 GIs on Guam held a hunger strike. On Jan 9, 18,000 protested on Guam; 1,000 marched in Paris; 1,800 sent support telegrams from London; 5,000 marched in Frankfort with many arrests; 5,000 marched in Calcutta; 15,000 in Hawaii and there were smaller demonstrations in Maryland (Andrews Field), Yokohama, Japan and Rheims, France.

The brass became frantic threatening arrests and courts-martial, they gagged the GI newspapers and tried to cover up the news in the public press. Even Eisenhower himself recognized the seriousness of the Back Home Movement by labeling it "hysteria."

But it was too late. The GIs were moving on to higher forms of organization. In the Philippines, a Soldiers Committee was set up with delegates representing 139,000 GIs. The Soldiers Committee elected a Central Committee and continued to carry out plans and agitation against the Brass. On Jan 13, 1946, in Paris, another committee released one of the most famous documents in the history of GI resistance, the Enlisted Men's Magna Carta.

500 elected delegates for GIs around Europe met to write grievances against the military. On Jan 13 they released the Enlisted Men's Magna Carta to the press. It demanded that all officers serve a term of at least one year as enlisted men and that all the privileges including clubs, separate eating facilities be eliminated, that the court-martial boards include enlisted men and that the current Secretary

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Klan at Camp Pendleton

INTERVIEW WITH A BLACK MARINE

Nine of the Camp Pendleton marines. From fighting the KKK to fighting the Marine Corps Brass.

Continued from page 10

...Movement

of War, Patterson be removed and that the Magna Carta be presented to the US Senate. The committee also established a "GI Liberation Committee" to fight for the demands of the Magna Carta.

Faced with open rebellion the US rich instructed the Army to give up to the GI demands to come home. Ships quickly appeared in Europe and Asia. In less than 6 months the Army dropped from 8 million to about 1 1/2 million. The GIs had won. The Chinese and Vietnamese would win later.

The Back Home Movement effectively stalled plans for an invasion of China and destroyed American plans for a war with the Soviet Union. For the second time, as in the Soviet Union in 1920, American GIs would refuse to fight against a popular revolution in another country, this time in China. Some 20 years later the spirit of GI resistance would once again surface as GIs, veterans and millions of people in the US took to the streets in protest of the war in Vietnam.

The Back Home Movement showed the power veterans and GIs had to bring the US ruling class, their legislators and military to their knees. The Back Home Movement won a tremendous victory. The Back Home Movement stands as a tribute to the enthusiasm and ability of GIs and veterans to organize and take control of their own lives in the enforcing arm of US imperialism-the military.

In 1976, 14 Black Marines attempted to attack the Ku Klux Klan and all it stands for at Camp Pendleton, California. The Marines going up for trial have the full support of VVAW.

The Marine Corps brass has taken the position that this action of the Black marines is totally divorced from the Klan activities preceding it. Some of the Klansmen on the base have been transferred. None of the Klan have been punished.

The following are excerpts from an interview with Lance Corporal Anthony Mathews, one of the Camp Pendleton 14.

Q. - What led up to the situation of the 13 and the climate?

A. - They say that everybody is equal in the Marine Corps--there is no prejudice. But for a person who has experienced the Marine Corps (they) say this is definitely not true. There is a considerable amount of prejudice in the Marine Corps toward Blacks, Chicanos, Indians, Samoans...and other ethnic groups.

Q. - Did the Brass know about the existance of the Klan before the incident happened?

A. That's kind of hard to answer because they were made aware of the amount of prejudice that was going on and some of the things that were happening and things they were doing was out in the open. So it was very hard for them not to be aware of them even though they might not have been told face to face. It still would be kind of hard for them not to be aware of something that was happening in their particular area...especially with a lot of things happening that could be considered..you know, racial disturbances.

Q.- What did the other GIs, like the white GIs think about the Klan activity?

A. - You can't say all the whites in the Marine Corps are like that. (There's) a lot of whites in the Marine Corps that are against it and are trying to get this thing out of the Marine Corps. There opinion is..(it) was not doing them no good. It's not really doing anybody any good. This is 1977 and this stuff should be dead.

Q. - Do you think the Klan has a right to be on the base or organizing anywhere?

A. - Well, when I signed up for the Marines they asked me a lot of questions about belonging to this or that radical group or extremist organization...I think it was wrong for them to be in the Marine Corps to organize, and I think it's wrong anyway to have such an organization as the Ku Klux Klan which is mainly built on holding down people.

Racist trash being put out by KKK at Camp Pendleton.

Q. - Do you think that all the evidence pertaining to the Klan was brought out in the Article 32 hearings? Were they allowing all the information?

A. - No. Because everytime evidence pertaining to the Klan was brought in it was pushed aside as being either irrelevant to the case.."It had nothing to do with what happened", "You're going far afield"..these were the words they were using.

Q. So they were limiting it to the night of the incident?

A. That's all they were concerned with.

Q. Why do you think the Corps hasn't come out with a statement against the Klan yet?

A. That's a question I can't answer. I'd like to know myself.

Q. - Do you think the Klan has been rooted out of Pendleton?

A. - Definitely not. Definitely no. It's still here and they're still organizing here. They might have calmed down a little bit; kept their stuff under cover a little bit more, but as far as being rooted out--no.

Q. - This is a question about South Africa. What do you think about the system of Apartheid?

A. How can one small group of people tell the majority how to run the country? It's a majority of Blacks. The Blacks are the ones working in the mines, working in the fields. They're the ones bringing in most of the income, if not all the income, and enjoying none of the benefits... So, as far as this Apartheid, it's completely wrong, completely backwards. The system shouldn't be there. I think something is going to happen to destroy that whole system. Definitely people over here should take an interest in it. Like they said, you know, the US has a lot of interests over there in Africa and they're trying to push it off on us like, "Well, we really don't have nothing going on over there," but they're making plenty of money--the people over there--which I think is wrong.. they're condoning it. So I think people in the US should take a definite interest in trying to stop what is going on over there and try to help the Blacks get control of what is rightfully theirs.

* * * * *

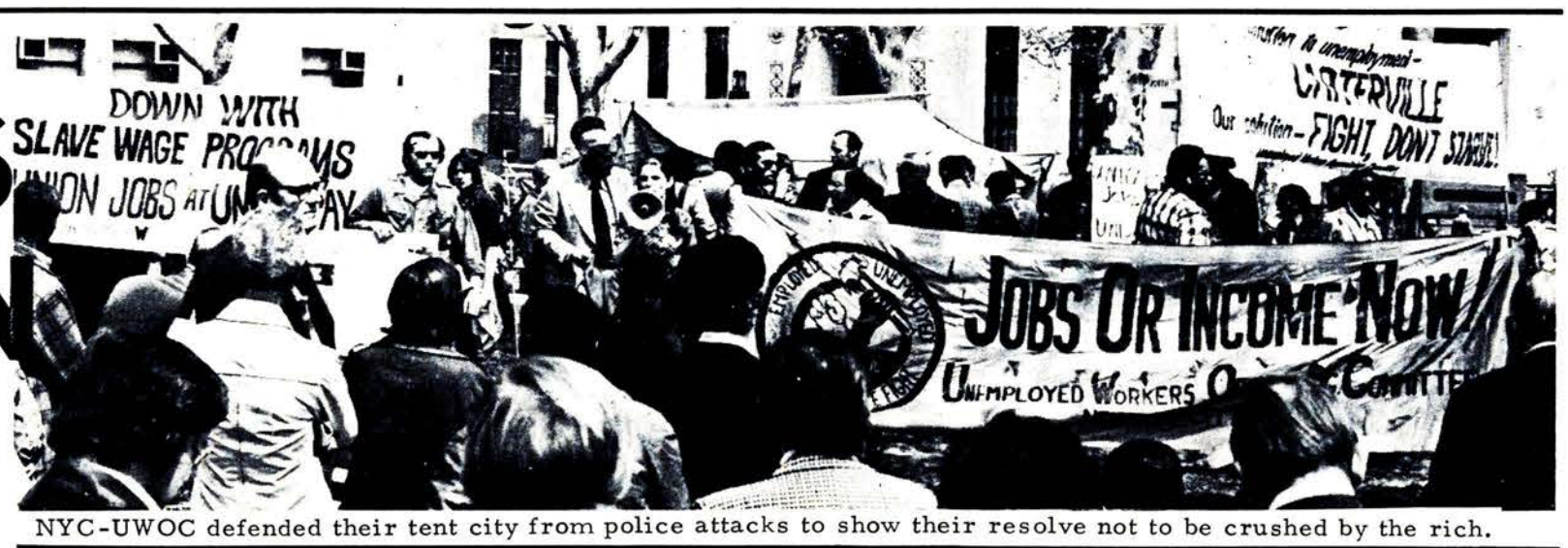
Nearly 20% of the military is made up of Blacks. Because of the superhigh unemployment and oppressive conditions of many of the inner cities Blacks are forced into the military. And while they say that once you enter the military you aren't Black or white, just green, national discrimination is a fact of life. In Vietnam a disproportionate number of Blacks were killed. Less than honorable discharges are given to a disproportionate number of Blacks. And they say there is no prejudice in the military! The case of the Pendleton marines is another clear example of how this is an outrageous lie. There is no justice in national discrimination and it's right for Blacks and whites to stand up and fight against the attacks like the case of the Pendleton 14.

A march and rally in support of the Pendleton marines will be held on Saturday, June 4 at 1 PM in Balderama Park in Oceanside, California. For information contact the San Diego Chapter of VVAW, PO Box 8054 San Diego CA 92102. Telephone (714) 232-9846.

WE MAY HAVE FOUGHT FOR THEM ONCE, BUT OUR FIGHT IS AGAINST THEM NOW!

Continued from page 1

JOBS PLAN



NYC-UWOC defended their tent city from police attacks to show their resolve not to be crushed by the rich.

newed claims of recovery, the corporate bosses and politicians know their economy is in deep trouble. They have tried such methods as rebates to stimulate purchasing and tax credits to reduce the cost of investments.

But they know that in the short run the only way they can hope to pull themselves out of economic crisis is to squeeze more work for less pay out of the working class, and throw millions of workers out on the streets. Key to this, for them, is to put the unemployed into a position where they will take any kind of work, at any wage, just to keep something on the table and a roof overhead.

They have done this before. During the first few years of the Great Depression, with unemployment in this country at its highest point in history, big business and their government drove the average workingman's wages down by more than one half!

HANDS QUICKER THAN EYE

Carter's economic package featured the proposed creation of some 415,000 CETA public service jobs, 346,000 CETA skill training and youth program slots, and $4 billion for public works projects. But these are no real expansions or reforms. It is nothing other than the fine art of giving with one hand while taking with the other. The money allocated in the past for federal supplementary unemployment benefits (the 13 week federal extensions of unemployment benefits) is simply being shifted to CETA. The money for many of the former rural water projects is being shifted to urban public worker projects.

BENEFITS CUT

Carter signed a bill cutting unemployment benefits by 13 weeks (from 65 to 52 weeks), leaving one 13 week extension until October 31, followed by a 3 month phase-out. After October no new applicants for the federal supplementary benefits will be accepted, meaning the FSB will expire by Jan 31, 1978.

Included in this Bill is the requirement for "suitable work", slave labor jobs. If offered a job that pays a gross wage that exceeds the FSB benefit or minimum wage, whichever is greater, you have to take the job or lose your benefits. It means that if you are collecting up to $92 a week and you are offered a minimum wage job, $2.30 an hour--you have to take that job or lose your benefits.

Carter and Congress were hoping to cut off the unemployment extensions in one clean chop, but they were met by a massive campaign, built in a lot of cities from Boston to Honolulu, which brought 1,000 workers, old and young, and of different nationalities to march on the White House last March 5th demanding union jobs at union wages, (see last issue of THE VETERAN).

CARTER'S JOBS

Carter's proposal to expand CETA is a three-pronged offensive. Take for example the public service jobs: at least 60% of these job slots will be used directly by cities and states hit hard by the economic crisis to shift workers off the regular payroll onto CETA funds. Only the illusion of creating new jobs exists here. What this allows is the federal government to foot the bill for a good portion of existing city jobs.

The remaining 40% of the public service employment slots will create low minimum wage jobs such as in hospitals, national parks, and city recreation programs. Veterans are supposed to get 35% of these public service jobs.

The largest program is to be skill training and so-called on-the-job work-experience training. Again these jobs will be at low wages and will enable private industry to have cheap government subsidized labor. This program is aimed at adults and will be the minimum wage slave labor jobs that workers on unemployment insurance will be forced to take.

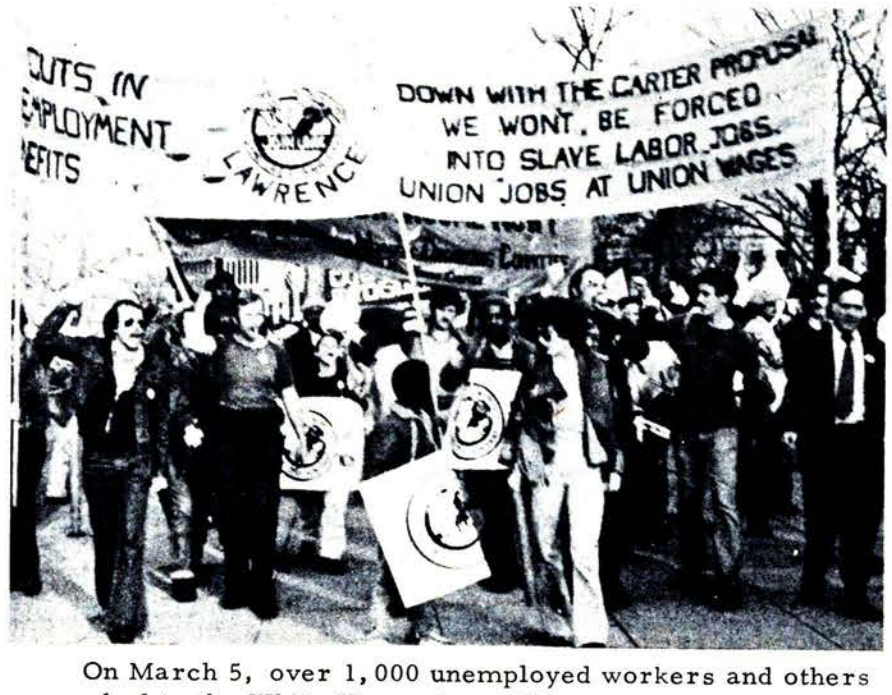
The youth program involves the expansion of present programs combining low wage, part-time summer jobs and rural conservation camps to defuse the youth rebellion and the potential for urban summer riots.

Carter's entire program will not reduce the unemployment rate any more than one tenth of one percent. The program is not designed to provide jobs to the millions of unemployed workers. It is basically a political program to create the impression of a larger-than-real jobs campaign, while simultaneously stabilizing the bare bones of city social services, driving the unemployed into slave wage jobs.

But Carter's plans will certainly be met with struggle. A recent Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee newsletter vows, "We will not be crushed. We will not be held at subsistance wages or less so the bosses can bail themselves out of their crisis....

"We've got to build our fight for jobs UNION JOBS AT UNION WAGES, against all their wage-cutting schemes--the starvation wage job programs, the day-labor union-busting agencies, the vicious provision in Carter's bill. We demand that any jobs program they set up pay union wages. And at the same time, we've got to keep one eye towards Oct. 31, when the remaining 13 week extension will run out.

"It is our future and that of our families and fellow workers that we're talking about. We have no choice but to fight."



On March 5, over 1,000 unemployed workers and others marched to the White House demanding no cuts in federal unemployment benefits. Many marched for the first time.

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LEGION HOLDS A PARTY

The Commander's Message

What is Happening To This Land of Ours?

The National Commander of the AL asked this question in the AL Magazine. He should look into his own back yard for an answer.

There's one thing you got to hand the American Legion. When they do something, they do it up big. Take for instance, their recent sodomy party in Redlands, California. According to an Associated Press story printed in the Long Beach Independent Press Telegram 19 persons were arrested in a raid at an American Legion stag party that featured "nude dancing girls having sex with spectators and a door prize of a prostitute for a night."

Now there's a patriotic fund raising event for you. But one wonders what exactly they were trying to raise. Knowing that the American Legion is a flag-waving rootin' tootin' rah rah God and America organization it comes as little surprise that they engaged in a stag party where they put women on a pedestal--but probably to get a better angle to watch them dance. And probably some of the red, white and blue veterans got a little red when the girls started to undress, white when the girls danced right in front of them and blue for what was on their minds.

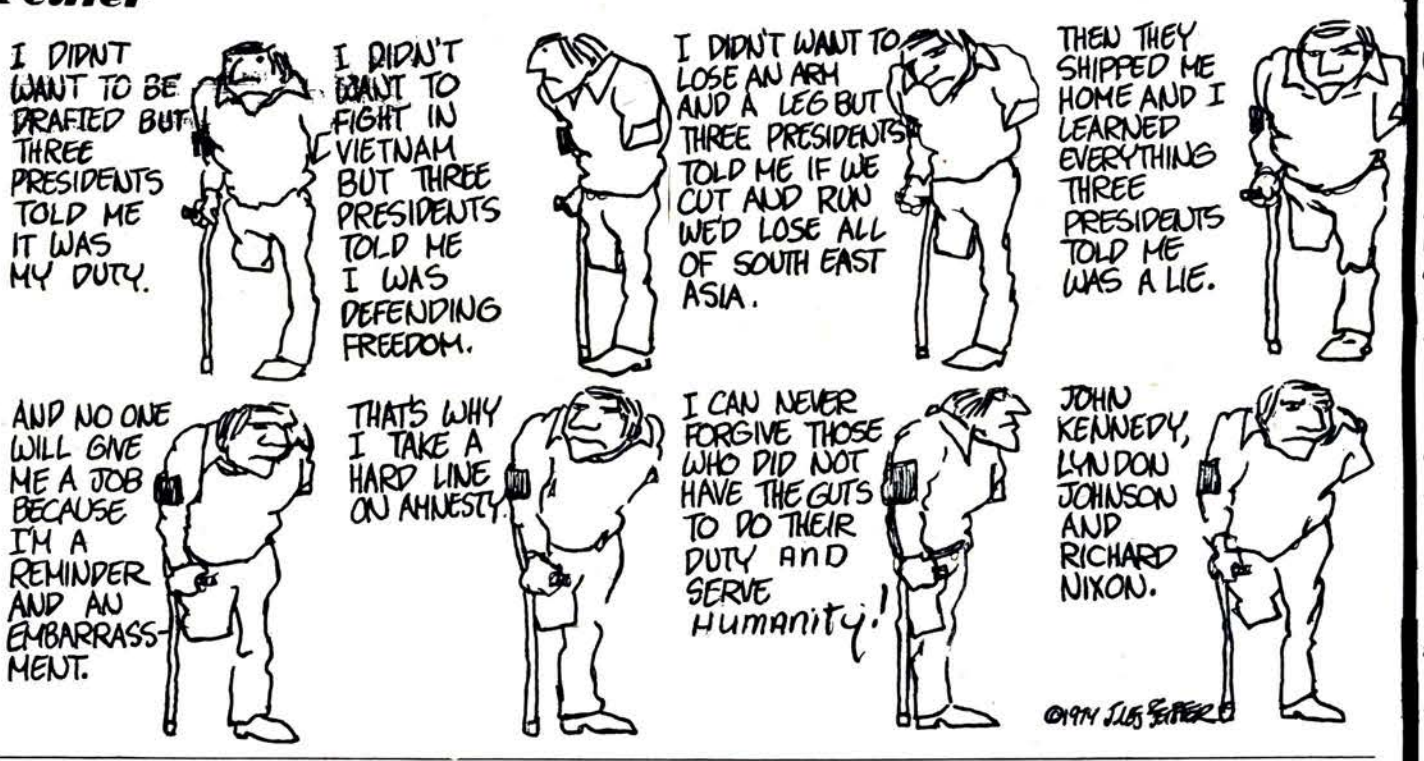
The American Legion is an organization that comes out in favor of everything that's backwards, but frankly we're glad to hear that they still get a kick out of having sex, but en masse and with a door prize is a little to decadent for most vets who see the real strength that comes out of personal relationships with women.

But the American Legion in Redlands stands as an example of how perverted this organization really is. There's nothing wrong with a bunch of vets getting together, having a few beers and telling war stories ...but many times some vets war stories always get around to what kind of sex they had. Now the American Legion has a new twist on these get-togethers --instead of talking about it, they act it out.

The raid on the stag party was conducted by four police officers from Redlands. They made the bust 1/2 hour before the door prize was awarded. Now, most people know that door prizes are usually handed out later on in the evening. So what were the police agents doing for the whole evening--crocheting home sweet home samplers?

And speaking of degenerate kinky sex stories, one of their idols, General Edwin Walker was picked up again for having his hands in some other man's pants. Now what we think would be real fitting for these disgusting episodes is to have General Walker give a speech to Redlands American Legion Post #650 on how to open your zipper in cadence while thousands of working people burn down their meeting hall.

Feiffer



Milwaukee

Action Hits Welfare Dep./ Recruiters

Members of Vietnam Veterans Against the War, Youth In Action and the Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee demonstrated on May 17th at the County Welfare Board (CWB) in Milwaukee to protest the turning over of the names of all males 18-30 years old to military recruiters.

Today with high unemployment among youth and vets, we are constantly bombarded with slick, well produced recruiting pitches for the military aimed at youth who are unemployed or working at less than survival wages. The rich in this country are gearing up for another war and they want the working class to provide the bodies.

This action on the part of the County Welfare Board is an obvious attempt to have the recruiters lure young people off the welfare rolls and into the military.

Upon hearing of this outrage, VVAW, YIA and UWOC gathered at the Board office. They began with a picket line, speaking to passersby by bullhorn and informing the public and press about this outrage.

Shortly after they arrived, they were able to meet with the Director of the CWB who had nothing to say outside of refusing to stop giving the names to local military recruiters.

Following the meeting, people from the various organizations remained in the hallway discussing this attack with welfare applicants. At this point the Sheriff's deputies attempted to cut off discussions by seizing a UWOC member and detaining him. They took him to a back room and slapped him around before releasing him without pressing any charges.

The attack upon the welfare recipients and upon the demonstrators has generated more activity.

Currently, charges have been filed against the deputies who illegally detained and struck the UWOC member. A citywide mobilization to force the County Welfare Board to stop releasing the names of the welfare males to the military recruiters is in motion.

Join VVAW

Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) is a nationwide organization of veterans from all wars which fights for the needs of vets and stands shoulder to shoulder with working people in our common struggle against the rich man's system. VVAW chapters across the country are building a national campaign to Extend and Expand the GI Bill, are demanding Jobs or Income Now, and are saying that We Won't Fight Another Rich Man's War.

VVAW grew out of the movement against the Indochina War as veterans of that war joined together to fight against US involvement. And, as the US government was forced to withdraw, VVAW began to turn its attention to the way in which veterans have been used once and then thrown away.

Membership in VVAW is open to veterans and others who want to build the veterans' struggle. It includes selling The Veteran (the VVAW national newspaper), wearing a VVAW button and paying dues; all members are encouraged, as much as possible to participate in the activities of local VVAW chapters. VVAW is a democratic organization with major decisions made by the membership at periodic regional and national meetings. For more information on joining VVAW, contact the local chapter or the VVAW National Office, P.O. Box 20184, Chicago, IL 60620. (312) 651-1583.

1977, Celebrations and Demonstrations

MAY DAY IS WORKERS DAY

Chicago - Vets lead off demonstration of over 200 workers. Marching through the city's south side they chanted in both English and Spanish. At the end of the march a ceremony was held to honor the Haymarket Square martyrs of 1886.

Bay Area, California - VVAW contingent marches with 500 people. Vets marched behind a banner proclaiming, "Fight the Rich; Not Their Wars", and stating also, "It's the work ing class we're fighting for."

New York City - The NY-NJ United Workers Organization built a larger than life size May Day symbol and placed it upon a flatbed truck. This float was used to build for the May Day celebration. 450 people marched to Union Square.

May Day, 1977. Demonstrations and celebrations around the world. Millions of workers from the US to China marked the International Workers Day with bright banners, marches, parties, festivals and militant speeches celebrating the victories of the working class during the past year and expressing the determination to build the struggle against all exploitation and oppression in the year to come.

In 25 cities around the country May Day demonstrations were held. In New York City 450 people marched behind a huge float with a large May Day symbol on it, depicting the unity and strength of workers. They rallied at Union Square, the traditional cite of large May Day rallies in the past. In Chicago over 200 people marched and rallied in the city's south side. In San Francisco over 500 people came together to celebrate International Workers Day. In Birmingham, Atlanta, Boston and other cities workers and others came together bringing with them the spirit of working people standing up. Banners proudly proclaimed the slogans of this year's May Day: Fight Don't Starve, Fight the Rich -Not Their Wars, Workers Unite To Lead the Fight Against All Oppression, and Down With the System of Wage Slavery. All these slogans point to the directions that the working class struggle is taking.

In many cities VVAW marched in separate contingents. In Los Angeles 25 vets marched with the workers. In New York City VVAW marched behind a "Fight the Rich-Not Their Wars" and in Chicago vets led the May Day march. In Minneapolis VVAW and the Revolutionary Student Brigade organized a May Day celebration.

While May Day is a working class holiday, veterans have a special interest in taking part in these activities as most of us are sons of the working class and in the class ourselves. Having served in the imperialist military many vets have seen the way they are used to fight in the interests of the ruling class only to come home and fight the ruling class everywhere --on the job and in the communities we live in in order to survive in a system that cares only for their own gold-lined pockets and use working people like slaves chained to the mines, mills, factories and plants.

One of the vets in a May Day speech put it out there clear as to what vets think, "We vets were used to fight for the rich, but not anymore. Look where we are today. It's International Workers Day and we're fighting along with the right side--the winning side in the battle--and that's the working class side. To Hell with the rich. Fight the rich, not their wars!"

This May Day, as was true of the workers holiday in the past few years, workers are gaining strength and power and organization--seeing that there is an alternative to laying down and taking things as if that's the natural order of things. This May Day a special slogan was put forward--Seize the Time in '77, Build a National Workers Organization. This organization will be formed in Chicago on Labor Day this year and was a part of the tasks laid out for the working class for the upcoming year.

At the May Day celebration in Chicago one worker summed up what this organization will do. He said, "This organization must be rooted in the plants and industries based against speed-up, wage cuts and attacks on our living standards. But it also must be at all times a vehicle to rally the ranks of the working class inside and outside the unions to deal with the burning questions that face us: the threat of war, unemployment, discrimination and countless attacks."

In all the cities worker after worker stood up and told of how they are fighting against attacks. In Philadelphia a transit worker talked about the long strike they waged recently. In New York hospital workers carried a banner stating "We're proud to march with our fellow workers on May Day."

The spirit of May Day can best be summed up by a speaker from the Revolutionary Communist Party who stated, "The road forward is the road of hard struggle, and only through struggle comes progress. Out of all the battles that rage wherever there are oppressors and oppressed will be forged step by step the unity and understanding to wage and win the decisive battle, to tear down the capitalist prison-house and then continue the struggle until mankind has been freed from all forms of slavery. The future belongs to the working class--We must dare to make it."

ACTIONS HIT PREPAYMENT CUTOFF

VVAW demonstration in San Diego

The last two years has seen a steady decline in the availability of the GI Bill with an upswing in restrictions and red tape procedures to discourage those who receive or wish to receive it.

There is a direct relationship between the attacks on the GI Bill to attacks on education and growing unemployment. Many of us vets have come to depend on the Bill as an essential supplement to our income or the only income. We have literally been backed to the wall. We have to fight or be crushed. It's that simple.

The fight to maintain pre and advance payments has taken various forms as vets become aware of the attacks.

In San Diego, VVAW members leafletted, held meetings and drew up a petition around the question of pre and advance payments. On April 1st, they held a demonstration of about 30 vets from four different schools in the San Diego area, at the regional VA building. It was a good start for the vets of the San Diego area. They plan to continue building the campaign in an ongoing way that will eventually win back the payments for vets. They have filed a class action suit on behalf of all vets in the area to win back the payments. The suit has the potential of making the struggle known to a much wider audience in Southern California. At the same time VVAW members realize that the courts serve the interests of the rich in this country and are not depending upon the courts for victory--emphasizing the suit as a tactic to popularize the battle.

In Milwaukee VVAW launched the campaign for prepayment at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee on May 10th. After the school agreed to advance payment, vets at UWM discovered that the school was eliminating deferred tuition; a means by which vets can attend school until the checks show up. VVAW members responded with an immediate rally demanding the deferred tuition and prepayment be reinstated. Vets in Milwaukee saw the initial rally that was attended by a large number of students as a first local skirmish in a nationwide battle in the fight for prepayments.

In Tampa, Florida at the University of South Florida, 300 vets who were outraged at this latest attack went en masse to the local VA office to demand some answers.

As the officials stalled for time many vets drifted away but roughly 100+ who waited were treated to the standard VA dodge of "No, don't worry, this won't happen here." This attack is nationwide and already into law! (see Vets' Notes page 2). The anger of the vets involved at USF is an indication of the ability of vets to rise up against these and other attacks on the GI Bill. This attack is going down everywhere. We ask all vets to join with VVAW in building this fight into a nationwide battle. We believe a good campaign waged in a militant manner can bring a victory across the country that will point the way forward in all the battles we, as veterans, take up.

Continued from page 9

LESSONS

mittee and supporters, VVAW among them, struggled with him. We pointed out that people had supported him because he had fought back, not because of his suffering, that what the struggle needed was strong organizers and fighters, not starving martyrs. The rulers of the country would be perfectly willing to see people starve, we said; in fact, time after time they have proved it in a thousand ways. While the struggle with Ashby has continued to the time of this article being written, Ashby did not see that it is not individuals but united masses of people that change things. As his hunger strike continued, he saw things less and less clearly, until recently when he attempted suicide.

This is a loss. The system was not able to kill him in Vietnam, it wasn't able to stop him from struggling for a better life in the past, but at the present it has been able to crush Ashby by driving him to desperation. We feel this loss. But, it does not change the nature of the struggle we waged. During this campaign we won many victories, and learned many lessons. We are better armed to fight in the future because of things we learned in this just fight. We intend to use what we learned to continue to build and to direct the anger of vets against this profit system, not against themselves or their brothers.

Cuban mercenaries occupying Angola--standing in for the USSR

Continued from page 5

...ZAIRE

as a base for the invasion.

Some countries which don't stand to gain economically or militarily are supporting the current government. The Organization of African Unity--composed of the heads of state of independent African countries--supports Mobutu. Egypt has sent pilots to help run Zaire's airforce. China, long a supporter of liberation struggles has sent military aid to the current government. Their aid no strings attached. Why do these countries take this position?

It is obvious that the people of Zaire don't gain a whole lot from this skirmish. This is not a war of liberation. On the one side the U. S. and its allies including the government of Zaire have control of the wealth of the country. On the other side, the Soviet Union and its allies want that wealth. In either case that wealth is taken from the country at the expense of the people.

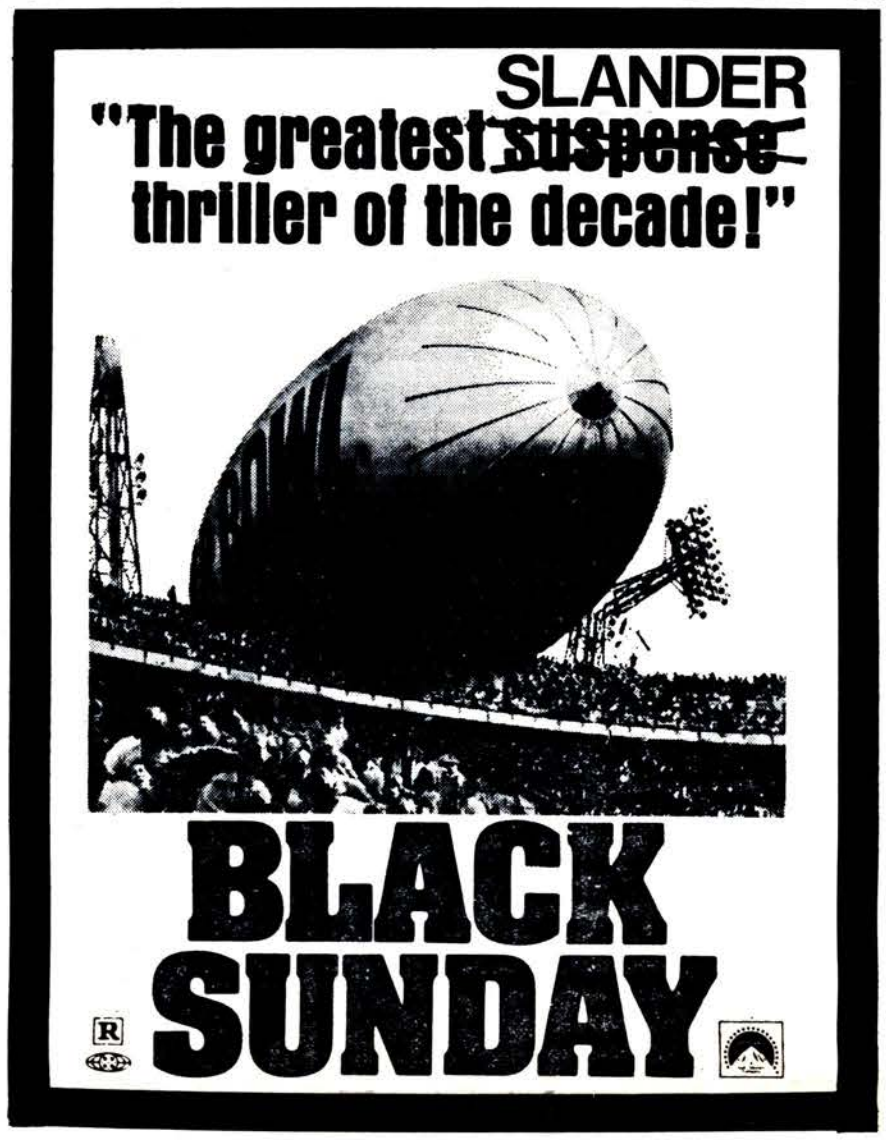
However, this little war must end with one side or the other as victor. Which result would be best in the long term? Which result would bring nearer the day the Zairean people are victorious in that liberation struggle started 17 years ago by Patrice Lumumba and his companions? Progressive people throughout the world see that it would be best that the rebels be defeated. If the rebels were successful, then the Soviets would have its (Cuban and Katangan) troops entrenched in the country and make it more difficult for the people to rise is revolution. Also, the Soviet Union would be in a stronger position militarily and be able to threaten surrounding independent countries.

This situation in Zaire again points to the everpresent and evergrowing contention between the United States and the Soviet Union. Both countries need to expand and exploit to keep their necessary profits rolling in. Both keep coming up against the other one. The pattern is clear. The rich in this country and the Soviet Union are going to get down one of these days. Just like in Vietnam, they'll send working people off to fight their war. We say, FIGHT THE RICH, NOT THEIR WARS.

Movie Review

ATTACKS PALESTINIANS

Not all movies are just simple entertainment. Some not only entertain and make big bucks for its producers, but also mold public opinion with their political content. Such were the "gung Ho" John Wayne movies in their time, and such is the recent release, "Black Sunday". Black Sunday is a well done thriller; an international good guys vs. bad guys, where the good guys are tough and brave and the bad guys are fanatically evil. But behind all of the suspense, the movie is a slanderous attack on, and serves to misrepresent, the struggle of the Palestinian people for the restoration of their homeland.



The story deals with a Palestinian woman, Dahlia Iyad (played by Marthe Keller), who as a member of the Black September terrorist organization plans to kill 80,000 people at the Superbowl football game, (Steelers vs. Cowboys), and the President of the US who is there too.

Her accomplice is Michael Lander (Bruce Dern, everybody's favorite maniac), an ex-POW of the Vietnam war and now a pilot on the Good Year blimp. They intend to hijack the blimp, then detonate a fragmentation bomb over the stadium made of plastic explosives and 220,000 fleshette darts.

The Israelis are the "good guys"---in the form of Major David Kabakov (Robert Shaw) who gradually gets wind of the plan (at one point with the aid of the Egyptian government) and before the movie ends displays some super-heroics that would make Superman jealous.

The sum total of the information given about the just struggle of the Palestinian people is through the members of this Black September group. The message is clear--theirs is no just struggle; they are all fanatics bent on terrorizing the world into submitting to their "cause." They don't care who they kill, everyone is their enemy. Early in the movie, Iyad records a message that reads in part, "...The American people have remained deaf and silent to the Palestinians. From now on you will share our suffering...We have begun a year of bloodshed...We want to be your brothers, the choice is yours."

Dahlia, we are told, was born in a Palestinian refugee camp, her father and brother were killed by the Israelis in one of the Arab-Israeli wars, her sister was raped and killed and her mother is dead. She has dedicated her life to the "cause" and her body to serve the sexual needs of whichever comrade she happens to be with. Although never said in so many words, the impression we get is that she is "revolutionary" out of personal revenge.

On the other hand, the movie glorifies the Israelis. They are tough, serious, ready and willing to do anything to protect the world from these mad terrorists. They are seen crossing the border into Lebanon and attacking a terrorist headquarters, as in the recent Entebbe raid. They beat and threaten to kill in order to obtain information, (whereas the US FBI is shown as being sincerely concerned with the due process of law and the civil rights of citizens!) ALL the actions of the Israelis are justified...after all they are the "protectors", the underdogs, representatives of a "tough but peace-loving" little country which is just trying to defend its god-given, 2,000 year old right to a homeland in the Middle East.

The movie totally obscures the fact that the very existence of the Zionist Israeli state was created by Zionists, a movement of some East European Jews, headed by capitalist forces and the aid of the imperialist powers of the US and Great Britain. Israel is an artificial state, a Western settler-colony forcibly implanted at the middle of the Arab world. For the state of Israel to come into being, Palestine, an Arab country, was erased from the map in 1948. And for the Zionists to realize their dream of gathering Jews dispersed throughout the world together in a Zionist-ruled state, a million and a half Palestinians (who had occupied the land continuously for 2,000 years) were forcibly driven from their homes and pushed into refugee camps in the surrounding Arab countries.

Everytime the Palestinians resist their oppression they are attacked as fanatic terrorists. But terrorism has long been a weapon of the Zionists. In February of 1973, Israeli pilots, flying in four US built Phantom jets, shot down an unarmed, civilian Libyan airliner over the Israeli occupied Sinai Peninsula. The plane had strayed off course in bad weather and was headed out of the area when it was shot down. One hundred and six people were murdered in this act of terrorism.

And as insurance if the viewer isn't ready to believe this motive of being a necessary "crusader" against evil for Israel, the movie offers the safe theory of "there's no sense to it all" given by Kabakov, as he lays in a hospital bed recuperating from wounds and says, "I am tired...I have been fighting the same war for thirty years, have the same enemies, the same friends, both my sons are dead,...there's no sense to all this."

Another predictable slander in Black Sunday is the character Michael Lander. He is a decorated Vietnam war pilot (total of 12 ribbons, including the Silver Star and Purple Heart with Cluster,) who was shot down over north Vietnam while bombing a civilian hospital and kept in solitary confinement in a 4X4 cell for six years as a POW. In a film (released by Vietnam) he says that he was shown the suffering that he caused and that now he is sorry for what he has done. Also that the DRV didn't punish him, that they have no animosity toward the American people, only toward the "warmongers who are responsible." But during the early scenes in the movie we can see that this man is obviously a lunatic and the reason must be that he was kept in solitary confinement in a 4X4 cell and tortured for six years in Vietnam. When Lander returned home he resigned his commission, his wife divorces him and he is not allowed to see his kids. His reasons for wanting to blow up the Superbowl is apolitical, demented revenge; "I'm giving the whole son-of-a-bitchin' country something to remember me by...they made me suffer, made my life a hell ...if they can do it to me, why can't I do it to them...I'm doing it for Margeret and the kids... I'm giving them something they won't forget for 5,000 years."

So Black Sunday serves up a suspense thriller that hasn't been equalled in quite some time--a movie that slanders the just struggle of the Palestinian people, glorifies Zionist aggression, paints the FBI as shackled to "justice" and abiding to the laws, and continues a now stereotyped slander of Vietnam veterans as crazy nuts.

About the only thing the movie has going for it is some exciting scenes that would make Sam Peckinpah proud. Other than that it could be used as an army training film to psych up recruits to go fight to the death in the Middle East.